

Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here:

“The care of rivers is not a question of rivers, but of the human heart.”

– Tanaka Shozo

People protect what they love and care about. Public love and caring for natural resources is not achieved through law enforcement or resource management, though these are critical elements of resource protection. Interpretation and education is the pathway to facilitating enduring connections between people and our natural and cultural heritage. These connections, in the mind and the heart, are what make resource protection possible through active stewardship, volunteerism, responsible recreation, and life-style choices.

The Comprehensive Interpretive Plan (CIP) for Yosemite National Park will develop the overall approach to connecting the public to two Wild and Scenic Rivers and their watersheds. The Merced and Tuolumne Rivers both originate in Yosemite National Park and visitor use and enjoyment of these resources directly impacts the quality of water and associated natural resources. A comprehensive approach to interpreting these resources, engaging all partners and local communities in the process, is necessary to ensure long-term protection of natural and cultural resources through visitor understanding and enjoyment.

Of particular significance, the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan will identify how the myriad partners in interpretation and education fit in meeting overall goals and objectives. Educational partners exist throughout gateway communities and within Yosemite National Park itself. Examples include Yosemite Association, Yosemite Institute, Y-explore Guides, Evergreen Lodge, Sierra Club, Mariposa Mining and Mineral Museum, Yosemite Railroad, SFPUC/HHWP, affiliated tribal organizations, USDA Forest Service, and the city's of Groveland, Mariposa, Lee Vining, and Oakhurst. Each of these partners will have a seat at the table and help craft the future of Interpretation and Education in Yosemite, and particularly as it relates to the Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Additionally, the Merced Wild and Scenic River Plan and Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Plan are both in development process right now, making the timing of this Comprehensive Interpretive Plan even more ideal and urgent. Each of these planning processes can inform the other and lead to a multi-disciplinary approach to connecting the public to these vital resources and protecting them for future generations.

Total cost: \$46,500